

Tenth Year
of Publication

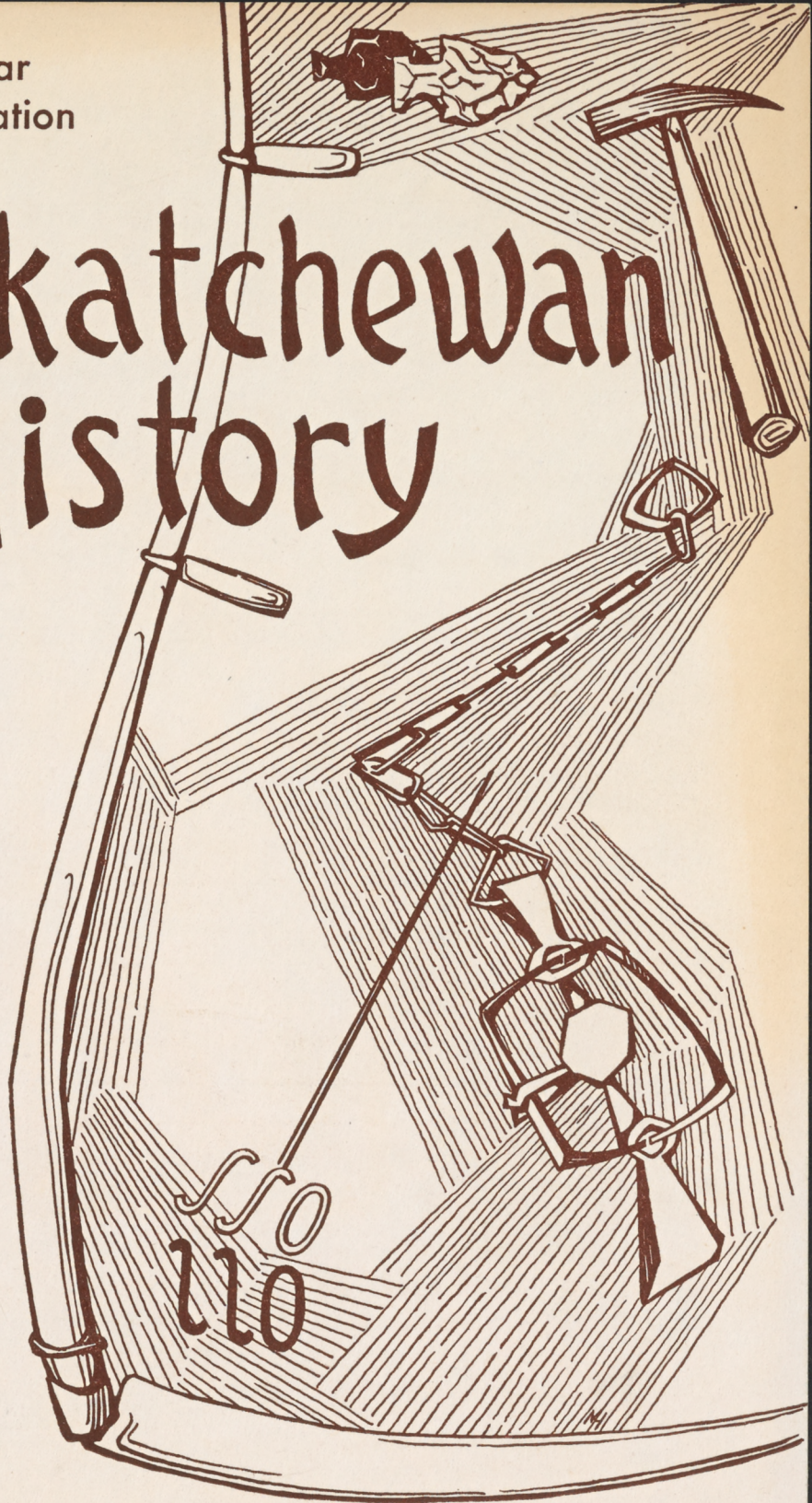
Saskatchewan History

★ Mystery of the
Confederation
Table

BY
ALLAN R. TURNER

★ Across
the Boundary

BY
BRUNO DOERFLER
O.S.B.



Vol. X, No. 1

Winter, 1957

35c

Saskatchewan History

Volume X

WINTER 1957

Number 1

Contents

THE MYSTERY OF THE CONFEDERATION TABLE.....	Allan R. Turner	1
DOCUMENTS OF WESTERN HISTORY		
Father Bruno's Narrative, "Across the Boundary": Part III		11
RECOLLECTIONS AND REMINISCENCES		
BALCARRES RECOLLECTIONS.....	Mrs. Elizabeth E. Webster	27
THE NEWSPAPER SCRAPBOOK.....		30
BOOK REVIEWS.....		32
Thomas, <i>The Struggle for Responsible Government in the North-West Territories, 1870-97</i> : by Norman Ward.		
Wright, <i>Prairie Progress: Consumer Co-operation in Saskatchewan</i> : by John H. Archer.		
Hopkins, <i>Go West Young Man, I Did</i> : by F. H. Auld.		
MacMillan, <i>Levko</i> : by Kitty Wood.		
NOTES AND CORRESPONDENCE.....		37

(Cover Design by McGregor Hone)

Editor: LEWIS H. THOMAS, Provincial Archivist

Advisory Board: HILDA NEATBY, ALEX. R. CAMERON, JOHN H. ARCHER

Business Manager: Evelyn Eager

Correspondence should be addressed to *Saskatchewan History*,
Saskatchewan Archives Office, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

Published three times a year under the auspices of the Saskatchewan Archives Board

The articles in this magazine are indexed in the CANADIAN INDEX

Yearly subscription, \$1.00; junior subscription (for students), 50c;
sustaining subscription, \$5.00 per year
Plus education and hospitalization tax.

The Editorial Board and the Saskatchewan Archives Board assume no responsibility for
statements made by contributors.

Copyright 1957

THE SASKATCHEWAN ARCHIVES BOARD

The Mystery of the Confederation Table

DISPLAYED in the spacious reading room of the Legislative Library at Regina is the famous "Confederation Table" around which the Fathers of Confederation are said to have sat in Quebec in 1864 when they drew up the articles of federal union which culminated in the British North America Act.¹ The inscription on the table states that it was brought west for the use of the North-West Council at Battleford and then sent to Regina after the seat of government was removed to that city. Visitors to Fort Battleford National Historic Park are shown another table which, it is asserted, was that used by the North-West Council at Battleford! The continuation of these mutually exclusive claims for the two tables reflects the lack of satisfactory documentation for either. While evidence is admittedly fragmentary, sufficient does exist to permit some assessment of their authenticity.²

Constructed of oak and basswood, the table at Regina is just over nine feet in length and four feet in width. The rectangular top, of straight lines with rounded corners, is fitted with three long, shallow drawers on either side. The tradition of the table is set forth on a tablet affixed to it:

At this table sat the Fathers of Confederation during the Conference held at Quebec in 1864, which having been adjourned from Charlottetown in the same year, opened on October 10th, and led to the drafting of the British North America Act. After the close of the Conference the table was transferred to Ottawa, and for a time used in the Privy Council Chamber. Later it was sent, with other furniture, to Battleford, at that time the seat of government for the North-West Territories, a position which the town occupied during the years 1878-1881 when the Honourable David Laird was Lieutenant-Governor. When Regina was made the capital, the table was sent here, and became the House table of the Assembly, remaining such up to the time when the present Legislative and Executive Building was opened up in 1912.

What evidence exists to substantiate this statement? The claim that it is the Confederation Table, while current in Regina for many years,³ appears to have received its first publication in 1909. In that year members of the International Council of Women were entertained by the Regina Local Council. The printed programme for the occasion has this entry: "Reception by Kannata Club. At

¹ The Fathers of Confederation met initially at Charlottetown in the same year. The mahogany table and chairs used at that conference are still displayed in the Executive Council Chamber at Charlottetown.

² The author of this article is indebted to Mr. J. D. Herbert, former Director of Historic Sites in Saskatchewan, for compiling the evidence respecting the table at Fort Battleford and also for the use of his notes on certain aspects of the Confederation Table.

³ Certainly it was current as early as 1892. In that year John A. Reid, employed in the office of the Indian Commissioner for the N.W.T., was informed that the table at which he was working was "the identical table around which the Confederation Fathers held their memorable sittings in Quebec." Archives of Saskatchewan (A.S.), unpublished report of John A. Reid to Regina Historical Society, 1927. (Reid was in the Dominion government service, 1884-89; Clerk of the Executive Council, N.W.T., 1889-1905; Clerk of the Executive Council and Deputy Provincial Treasurer, Saskatchewan, 1905-10.)

which Register of Guests Upon Old Confederation Table, 1867.”⁴ Mrs. T. B. Patton, then President of the Kannata Club, had thought it would be a fitting gesture to have these international visitors register on the historic table. In order to satisfy herself of its identity, she consulted Lieutenant-Governor A. E. Forget of Saskatchewan, who had been associated with the territorial government from its inception at Battleford.⁵ Mr. Forget was shown a copy of the programme and stated that the reference to the table was in accord with the facts.⁶

In order to have a record in his files, Mr. S. Spencer Page, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, wrote to the former Lieutenant-Governor of the North-West Territories, Edgar Dewdney,⁷ for a statement about the table.⁸ Dewdney replied:

I really am 'unable' to 'give' you 'any' further particulars in regard to the Assembly table of the old North West Council further than I believed it was a table used in the Privy Council of the Dom. either before or after Confederation. The only person likely to give you the information is Col. F. White of the Royal N.W. Mounted Police who had a good deal to do with the organization of affairs in the early days.⁹

Mr. Page then wrote to Colonel White,¹⁰ who, after a visit to Regina some time later, replied:

I have done my best to identify the table which is now in use in the Legislative Chamber at Regina, as that around which the meetings of the Fathers of Confederation were held in Quebec. Most of those who were in public service when the North-West was created, have 'passed away', but I can say, almost positively, that it was the table of the Privy Council of Ottawa after the transfer of the Government from Quebec to Ottawa, and until a new and larger round table was constructed for the Privy Council of the Dominion of Canada.¹¹

On the basis of the statements of both Dewdney and White, Page could be reasonably certain that the table was used by the Privy Council at Ottawa. However, in transmitting his correspondence to the Legislative Librarian in whose custody the table was placed in 1914, Page recognized that the evidence respecting the Confederation aspect was inconclusive.¹² In acknowledging this, the

⁴ Legislative Library (L.L.), Confederation Table file, "Programme of Entertainment for International Council of Women by Regina Local Council, July 6th, 1909."

⁵ Forget was Secretary to the Hon. David Laird and Clerk of the North-West Council at Battleford; in the Indian Department at Regina after transfer of the Council; Lt. Governor of the N.W.T., 1898-1905, and of Saskatchewan, 1905-10.

⁶ L.L., Confederation Table file, "The Confederation Table—Statement of Identity", signed by W. H. Munro, former Assistant Legislative Librarian of Saskatchewan.

⁷ Dewdney was appointed Indian Commissioner in 1879, an office he continued to hold while Lt. Governor of the N.W.T., 1881-88. Appointed Minister of the Interior, 1888.

⁸ L.L., Confederation Table file. Page to Dewdney, July 26, 1909.

⁹ *Ibid.* Dewdney to Page, August 2, 1909.

¹⁰ *Ibid.* Page to White, August 10, 1909. Lt. Col. Frederick White entered the Dominion public service in 1869; was Chief Clerk of the Department of Justice by 1876; appointed Comptroller of the N.W.M.P. in 1878; also served as Private Secretary to Sir John A. Macdonald, 1880-82.

¹¹ *Ibid.* White to Page, March 25, 1911.

¹² *Ibid.* Page to Hawkes, April 2, 1914.



Sask. Govt. Photo.

The Confederation Table, Legislative Library, Regina.

Legislative Librarian wrote, "It seems to me that even if it be not established that the 'Fathers of Confederation' deliberated at this table, the fact that it is the table first used by the Privy Council after the transfer of Government from Quebec to Ottawa, gives it an historical interest and value which well merits its careful preservation."¹³ Later enquiries instituted at the Public Archives of Canada, the Quebec Archives, and the Department of Public Works, Ottawa, failed to elicit any evidence of the history of the table.¹⁴ Nevertheless, sometime between 1917 and 1927 the present inscription was prepared for display on or near the table.¹⁵ From the records extant, one assumes that the inscription was based on Forget's comment which had been transmitted through Mrs. Patton.

Considerable weight seems also to have been attached to the statement of Arthur Bourget, employee of the Saskatchewan Treasury Department, 1889-1933, who claimed to recognize the table at Regina as one he had been shown as a boy in the old Legislative Building in Quebec.¹⁶ However, Mr. Bourget was not born until January 23, 1868.¹⁷ The papers, books and furniture of the Parliament House and departmental offices were moved from Quebec to Ottawa during September and October, 1865.¹⁸ Hence Mr. Bourget could only have seen a table of similar construction among the furnishings of the government of Quebec which occupied the building when it was transferred to the province after Confederation and until it was destroyed by fire in 1883.

The only evidence which exists to tie the table to the Quebec Conference is the indirect testimony of Mr. Forget to which of course due weight must be given. If the table was among the furnishings of the government of Canada at Quebec, could it have been used by the delegates? What do we know of the setting of the Conference itself? Dr. W. Menzies Whitelaw has made a careful reconstruction of it, based on contemporary newspaper reports:

The room in which the conference held its sessions was on the second floor at the extreme north-east end of the main section. This had been the reading room of the legislative council. Three tall windows, semi-circular at the top, provided not only light but also an unobstructed view down the mighty river. . . . Within the conference chamber a long table had been placed parallel to the windows and on it was a crimson cloth. Around this the delegates grouped themselves by provinces. The middle portion of the table was occupied by the

¹³ A.S., Legislative Library correspondence, 1914-16. Hawkes to Page, April 3, 1914.

¹⁴ A.S., Confederation Table file. See correspondence of John A. Reid with Dept. of Public Works, 1927; J. D. Herbert with Dept. of Public Works, the Public Archives and the Quebec Archives, 1951; Dr. Wm. Kaye Lamb to L. H. Thomas, 1956.

¹⁵ A.S., Legislative Library correspondence, 1917. In a letter to Mrs. Patton, October 17, 1917, the Assistant Legislative Librarian indicates the intention of placing an inscription on it. A photograph of the table, taken about 1922 (A.S., B-20), shows a card labelled "Old Confederation Table" on it. John A. Reid, *op. cit.*, refers to the inscription as being on or near it in 1927.

¹⁶ L.L., Confederation Table file. Signed statement of A. Bourget, June 10, 1927.

¹⁷ Records of the Public Service Commission, Province of Saskatchewan.

¹⁸ Annual Report, Commissioner of Public Works, *Sessional Papers of Canada*, 1867-68, Vol. I, No. 5, p. 58. The seat of government was at Quebec from 1859-1865. A careful scrutiny of the Confederation Table reveals no manufacturer's labels or trademarks which would indicate its age and thus establish whether or not it antedated the period of government at Ottawa.

Canadians. Sir E. P. Taché, prime minister of Canada, as chairman occupied the place of honour, sitting with his back to the windows, with Conservative colleagues on either side. On his immediate right were John A. Macdonald, Campbell and McGee, in that order, and on his left Cartier and Galt. Immediately across from Taché sat Brown. On Brown's right sat McDougall and Cockburn and on his left Mowat, Langevin and Chapais. At the end of the table to Taché's extreme right sat Colonel John Hamilton Gray, prime minister of Prince Edward Island, and to Gray's right all the other island delegates except Palmer who sat at Gray's immediate left. Farther on Gray's left sat the two representatives from Newfoundland. At the opposite end of the table from Gray sat Tilley, prime minister of New Brunswick, and to his right the other member of the New Brunswick delegation, and to his left the Nova Scotians. At the beginning of the second week Peter Mitchell of New Brunswick had to go home and Dickey of Nova Scotia was able to get a seat with his back to the light. A small square table in the north corner of the room was occupied by Major Hewitt Bernard, executive secretary of the conference.¹⁹

This setting was followed by Robert Harris in his famous painting of the Fathers of Confederation, done in 1883, with some artistic licence in making the middle window larger than the other two, and a few deviations in the seating arrangements.²⁰ The Regina table of course is not the square table used by Bernard. Originally some fifteen feet in length,²¹ it seems neither so long as the main one portrayed by Harris, nor likely to have accommodated the thirty-three delegates! However, one wonders if a table of greater length would have been available. Were two or more tables placed end to end and covered with the crimson cloth, or did the delegates merely group themselves around a single table, with restricted access to it?

There is the fairly conclusive evidence, cited earlier, that the Regina table was used by the Privy, or Executive, Council in Ottawa. Would not it have been among the furnishings of the same body in Quebec? But the delegates met in the Legislative Council reading room! The offices of the Executive Council at Quebec were not in the Parliament building, which housed the Legislative Council, the Legislative Assembly and the offices of their employees, but in the St. George's Hotel, Upper Town, opposite the Place d'Armes.²² Hence, there is a distinct possibility that the Regina table, if originally at Quebec, was not in the building in which the delegates met. However, the inference from the statement, "Within the conference chamber a long table had been placed parallel to the windows", may be that a table was brought in for the purpose. It is quite conceivable that those making the arrangements for the conference might have gone to another building to get a suitable table. It must also be noted that the furniture moved from Quebec might not have been assigned to the same offices in Ottawa.

¹⁹ W. Menzies Whitelaw, "Reconstructing the Quebec Conference", *Canadian Historical Review*, Vol. XIX, No. 2, pp. 123-137.

²⁰ *Ibid.*, pp. 123-124.

²¹ See below, p. 8, and note 33.

²² Annual Report, Commissioner of Public Works, 1867-68, *op. cit.*, p. 58.

The circumstances under which the Confederation Table reached the North-West are equally unclear. Alternatives which have been suggested are that the Hon. David Laird²³ was responsible for it being brought to Battleford, that the Hon. Edgar Dewdney had it brought to Battleford, or that Dewdney had it brought directly to Regina. Only the third alternative is satisfactory, even without reference to the authenticity of the table displayed at Fort Battleford. If it was brought to Battleford, it would more likely have been at the instance of Laird, since Dewdney never officially resided at Battleford. There is a suggestion that Laird obtained it during a visit to Ottawa to select furnishings.²⁴ He could only have done so before he left Ottawa for the west, or by later correspondence, since he did not return to Ottawa during his term of office. A record exists of furniture being ordered for Government House and of it being shipped from Ottawa to Battleford late in 1877, via steamboat on the Red River and thence overland by freighter.²⁵ At that early period, overland freighting on the plains was done exclusively by Red River cart. It seems rather unlikely, but not impossible, that so large and unwieldy an object as the solid table top, some fifteen feet in length, should have been carried on a single cart.²⁶ More conclusive, with respect to the possibility of the Confederation Table having been at Battleford, is one fairly positive statement by a person familiar with the furnishings before and after their removal to Regina. Mr. Hayter Reed stated:²⁷

As regards the table you speak of I can almost speak with certainty that it never was at Battleford. If it had been the chances were that it would have drawn my attention, as after Lieutenant Governor Laird left Battleford, at the Government's request I lived in Government House for a time. . . . As you no doubt are aware I was a member of the North-West Council which sat in Regina, and although in the Council we sat at a large and wide table I never understood it was the one used when Confederation was debated.²⁸

In view of these considerations, it seems almost certain that the Confederation Table was never at Battleford. That Dewdney, however, was responsible for its acquisition is stated flatly in a letter from A. E. Forget to William Trant²⁹ in 1918. He wrote, "I know only that the table was secured by the late Lt. Gov. Dewdney."³⁰ Unfortunately, he did not suggest when this might have been. It must surely have been after administrative offices were opened in Regina. This would place its arrival in Regina not earlier than 1883, and possibly not later than 1888, when Dewdney became Minister of the Interior, although he might have had it shipped from Ottawa after he moved there.

²³ Laird was Lt.-Governor of the N.W.T., 1876-1881 and resident at Battleford, 1877-81.

²⁴ L.L., Confederation Table file. W. H. Munro's statement.

²⁵ A.S., Laird Letter Book. Laird to MacKenzie, January 24, 1878.

²⁶ In 1883 a scow was placed on the river at Saskatchewan Landing for use as a ferry. One version of the story affirms that the 18 by 9-foot scow was lashed to the top of a cart load of goods for transport from Battleford to the Landing.

²⁷ Reed was Indian Agent at Battleford, transferred to Regina after the government was moved, and became Assistant Indian Commissioner in 1884. Appointed to the North-West Council, 1882.

²⁸ Letter of Hayter Reed to John A. Reid, quoted by the latter in unpublished report to Regina Historical Society, 1927, A.S.

²⁹ Wm. Trant at the time held the appointment of Archivist of Saskatchewan.

³⁰ L.L., Confederation Table file. Forget to Trant, September 23, 1918.



The North-West Council Table, Regina, 1884.

The earliest recollection of the whereabouts of the table in Regina is set forth by John A. Reid in a letter to R. C. Laurie:³¹

I first saw the table in the old Indian Office here in 1892, during the time I was employed there while Hayter Reed was Commissioner. I remember C. F. Johnson (now of Battleford, but who was a clerk in the office at the time) telling me that the table (which was afterward taken over with the buildings by the North-West Government after 1896, when the office was removed to Winnipeg) had been brought direct to Regina from Ottawa, at the instance of either Mr. Dewdney or Mr. Reed—or perhaps both—for it was rapidly deteriorating into old lumber in the East.³²

It appears then that the table was in Regina at least by 1892, and that it was used in the offices of the Indian Commissioner for Manitoba and the North-West Territories until 1896. After that time it became part of the furnishings of the government of the North-West Territories. Its immediate use is unknown. However, it may have become the House table of the Legislative Assembly in the territorial period. In 1908 it was moved to the new Regina Post Office building where the session of that year was held. In order to move it to the top floor of

³¹ Richard C. Laurie, brother-in-law of John A. Reid, was then editor of the *Saskatchewan Herald*, Battleford.

³²A.S., Confederation Table file. Reid to Laurie, May 27, 1927.



The North-West Council Table, Fort Battleford National Historic Park
(Mr. H. Tatro, Custodian, in background)

Archives of Saskatchewan.

the building six feet had to be cut from its top.³³ It continued in use as the House table of the Legislative Assembly, after the installation of the government in the new Legislative Building, until 1914 when it was placed in the custody of the Legislative Library.

The disassociation of the Confederation table with the North-West Council either at Battleford or Regina raises the question of the whereabouts of the tables used by that body. A photograph exists of the North-West Council seated around a table at Regina in 1884.³⁴ The table differs markedly in design from the Confederation Table. Unfortunately, no trace of the subsequent whereabouts of this table has been found. At Fort Battleford National Historic Park is displayed the table said to have been used by the North-West Council there.

The display caption at Fort Battleford³⁵ suggests that the table was made for the North-West Council by one of the carpenters employed in constructing the

³³ L.L., Confederation Table file. Signed statement of W. Lythe, March 11, 1924. Lythe stated that he shortened the table; the portion removed was used in repairs to other furniture.

³⁴ A.S., Historical Photograph collection. Item B-490.

³⁵ Mr. H. Tatro, Custodian at Fort Battleford, kindly supplied a copy of this statement which was originally prepared by J. D. Herbert, former Custodian.

government buildings at Battleford. Obviously of unskilled workmanship, the long narrow table now is covered with a green felt cover. It is reported originally to have had a double sloping top, with a shelf underneath divided into compartments of about the width required for one person.³⁶ No documented history of the Battleford table is available until 1904 when Richard C. Laurie recognized it standing beside the Battleford school.³⁷ He brought this to the attention of the Town Council with the result that Council instructed its secretary to write to the Board of School Trustees with a view to acquiring it.³⁸ At a later Council meeting the Secretary read a communication from the Board of Trustees "acknowledging receipt of the application of the Council for the table which had been used by the Northwest Council previous to the removal of the capital from Battleford and which had been loaned to the public school and granting the request of the Council."³⁹ The Town Council had the double sloping top of the table removed and drawers added. When a new town hall outfitted with new furniture was opened, the table was left in the old meeting place, a room above the firehall. This area was used some years later by the Great War Veterans' Association. About 1927 Mr. Campbell Innes, principal of the Battleford Collegiate Institute, found the table in a local second hand store and procured it for the office of the Saskatchewan Teachers' Alliance above the Battleford Post Office. In order to effect this move the table had to be sawn in half, a mutilation strikingly similar to that performed on the Confederation table, and for the same reason! When the N.W.M.P. Memorial and Indian Museum⁴⁰ was set up in 1948 the table was installed in the Officers' Quarters with other memorabilia of the North-West government.

The authenticity of the Battleford table remains dependent on the recollections of persons who lived in the area from the inception of the territorial government. It should be noted that R. C. Laurie did not live there before 1882. However, his brother, William Laurie, who resided in Battleford as early as 1878, accepted the claim.⁴¹ An interesting story is told by an early resident of Battleford who attended the public school when the table was housed there.⁴² He recalls that the pupils, in sitting around the table, used to call each other by the names of the members of the North-West Council. Since he sat at the head, he was called "Governor Laird". In the absence of any evidence to the contrary, the claim for the Battleford table is reasonably sound.

³⁶ John A. Reid, unpublished report, to Regina Historical Society, 1927, A.S.

³⁷ *Ibid.*, letter of R. C. Laurie quoted by Reid.

³⁸ Reports of Town Council meetings, *Saskatchewan Herald*, September 7, November 2, 1904.

³⁹ *Ibid.*, December 21, 1904.

⁴⁰ Now Fort Battleford National Historic Park.

⁴¹ Wm. Laurie, writing about Government House, in the *Lethbridge Daily Herald*, May 24, 1924: "I do not know what became of the original equipment of the building with the exception of the large table around which the Council used to sit while in Session. This table in some way had been preserved, and a few of the old timers interested themselves in getting possession of it, and it is now in the reading room of the G.W.V.A. club". (Quoted by John A. Reid in unpublished report to Regina Historical Society, 1927, A.S.).

⁴² Mr. A. Rowland related this story to J. D. Herbert some years ago.

In summary, the following statements are applicable to the history of the tables:

1. The table at Fort Battleford is probably one constructed for the use of the North-West Council when Battleford was seat of government.

2. The table used by the North-West Council at Regina, 1883-88 has not been located.

3. The table displayed in the Legislative Library is one used by the Privy Council at Ottawa after the government was moved there in 1865. It was probably among the furnishings moved from Quebec, and, in that case may have been used by the Fathers of Confederation at the Quebec Conference in 1864. During the period 1883-1892, the table was brought to Regina at the instance of Lieutenant-Governor Edgar Dewdney where it was used in the offices of the Indian Commissioner for Manitoba and the North-West Territories until 1896. It was then transferred to the government of the North-West Territories. By 1908 it had become the House table of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan, and remained as such until placed in the permanent custody of the Legislative Library in 1914.

It is apparent that both tables may properly be displayed as historic relics. On the basis of the evidence presented herein, the claim for the Regina table should be modified to exclude any reference to its use by the North-West Council. The Confederation aspect should not be advanced as an established fact, but only as an interesting theory. One day a routine memorandum in a departmental file or a letter in a collection of private papers may provide the necessary evidence to substantiate the legend, the long persistence of which cannot be discounted lightly.

ALLAN R. TURNER.

DOCUMENTS OF WESTERN HISTORY

Father Bruno's Narrative "Across the Boundary" Part III.

In this issue we present the third installment of the account written by Father Bruno Doerfler, O.S.B., describing the travels of the party from Minnesota which was organized in 1902 to investigate the possibility of establishing a Catholic colony in Western Canada.

The Editor

The vicinity of Balgonie seems to be settled principally by thrifty German farmers. At Balgonie there is a large congregation of German Catholics in charge of Father Zerbach. Nor very far distant is the flourishing congregation of Maria Hilf.

Midway between Balgonie and Regina the train passes by a lonely sand hill called Pilot Butte. From this point large quantities of sand are continually taken for building and grading purposes and shipped away by rail.

Pilot Butte seems to indicate the western extremity of the choice agricultural lands of Assiniboia. Until now we had passed through a region whose surface soil seemed to be, nearly everywhere, a rich, deep, and very fertile black loam, which, where the underlying subsoil consists of clay, has a great capacity for withstanding drought and is therefore certain of producing annually large crops. After the Sandy Plain surrounding Pilot Butte had been traversed, the character of the soil changed. As we neared Regina the soil took on the character of what in western parlance is called "gumbo". This gumbo is a very fine-grained soil, rich in alkaline compounds, which, when saturated with water, becomes as sticky as glue and impervious to moisture, whilst it cracks and bakes as hard as bricks when thoroughly dry. Of course, soil of this kind is of very little value for farming purposes, although it produces immense crops in favourable years. For the past few years, the neighborhood of Regina raised splendid grain crops and, as a consequence, all available land has been settled. As Regina is situated at the eastern border of the great western arid region, it is to be feared however, that ere long a succession of dry seasons will bring many of the settlers to the verge of ruin and starvation. The last four years have been distinguished by an unusual amount of precipitation.

Regina is the seat of government for the Northwest Territories, which compose all that part of the Dominion of Canada, which has not been erected into Provinces. The Territories are divided into a number of Districts, of which four are organized viz., Assiniboia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Yukon. Each of the Districts is larger in area than the state of Minnesota, and each elects a representative to the Dominion Parliament at Ottawa. The individual Districts have no distinct government of their own, but those which are organized elect representatives, numerically in proportion to their population, to the Territorial Legislature at Regina. Thus, by analogy to our conditions, it might be said that the N. W. Territories form really but one territory with four representatives in Parliament (the Canadian Congress) and one territorial government.

The legislative and executive powers are vested in the legislature and in the Lieutenant-Governor, who is appointed by the Governor-General of the Dominion, and a Council or Cabinet appointed by himself. The judges are appointed by the government. County officers there are none. Thus, many occasions for corruption in politics and for undue excitement in time of elections are done away with. The N. W. Mounted Police, a governmental military force, effectually protects the people and their property, at the same time performing the duties of sheriffs and constables. The administration of public education is in the hands of the Commissioner of Education who is a member of the Executive Council. Catholics may have separate schools, which receive the same financial subsidies as the public schools, provided they employ teachers with certificates and conform with the prescribed curriculum of studies.

FROM REGINA TO CALGARY

Regina is situated on a level plain and makes a very neat appearance as one comes near with the train. The buildings are mostly large and commodious and boast of a very neat style. The streets are wide and regularly laid out and are in



St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church and Graton School, *circa* 1900.

Archives of Saskatchewan.

excellent condition during dry weather. The large railway station is surrounded by a beautiful park, well kept.

Altogether, Regina seems to be a splendid place for a residence town, but as a business place it seems to amount to but little. There are no manufactures, and the business of the town seems to be limited to supplying the wants of the community and a rather small tributary district.

We arrived at about 8 o'clock in the evening of August 15, and took supper and lodgings at the Windsor Hotel, one of the best in town. After supper we took a walk to view the town by the light of the full moon. We found a neat, though somewhat small Catholic church, at which Rev. A. J. Van Heertum, of the Order of Premonstratensians, resides as pastor. In addition to this mission, the Father attends to five smaller missions from Moosomin in the East to Swift Current in the West, a distance of three hundred miles along the railroad.

The Catholics at Regina have a Catholic Separate School, which is graded, and in which two teachers are employed. This school, like all Catholic Separate Schools in Canada, is supported by taxation, thus being on an equal footing with the government Public Schools, which system is certainly far more just than the much vaunted school system of our country, where Catholics are obliged by the state to help support godless public schools and, by their consciences, to support religious schools.

After a refreshing night's rest, we partook of an early but poor breakfast in the only restaurant of the town, on the following morning, as we desired to take the train for the west at 7.15, at which hour hotels do not yet serve breakfast. Upon arrival at the station, however, we found a notice on the bulletin board, stating that the train was about an hour late, which time we employed in walking the streets of the town. The station is built sufficiently large for years to come in spite of the increased business caused by the rush to Saskatchewan, which all passes through this point at present, as this is the starting point of the Prince Albert Branch, the only railroad now penetrating into that district.

Soon after boarding the train, which had left Winnipeg at 6.05 p.m. on the previous day, we passed by the spacious government buildings, which are situated about a mile west of the town. We sped on towards Moose Jaw, traversing a district recently settled by homesteaders who seem to have much faith in the future of this gumbo region at the outskirts of the dry belt.

About an hour after leaving Regina the train pulled into Pasqua, the junction of the Canadian Pacific and the "Soo" line, and, shortly, we arrived at Moose Jaw, where a number of "Soo" passengers entered our train to continue their westward course. Moose Jaw is a town of considerable importance, not only because it is the division point, where all through traffic is transferred from the "Soo" to the Canadian Pacific, but also because it is the outfitting place for all the ranchers of an immense surrounding territory. For a distance of over a hundred miles to the westward there is not one regular station except Parkbeg, where a halt is made to take in water.

For the first ten or fifteen miles beyond Moose Jaw, the country is fairly well settled and considerable land was brought under cultivation during the past few years, but it is to be feared greatly that, ere long, these settlers will find that they are within the arid belt.

Soon the country began to take on an uninviting appearance. The grass appeared short and dry. Water was more rarely met with, and showed unmistakable evidence of the presence of alkali. Evidently we were now in a district fit for ranching only. About thirty-five miles west of Moose Jaw the train stopped at Parkbeg, where nothing was in sight but a large water tank with an attendant's hut on a sandy knoll, almost entirely surrounded by alkali swamps and pools which appeared as though covered with ice from a distance, on account of the alkali deposits.

The train made a lengthy stop at this point and all water tanks on the train were well filled ere we continued on our way. Naturally we became suspicious that the train crew was trying to poison us or to force us to partake of the very expensive refreshments in the dining car. Upon testing the quality of the water, however, we found, to our surprise, that it was excellent. Mr. Roy explained to us that, even in the worst alkali regions, good water could be found where the soil is sandy. Evidently this was the best water to be found this side of Calgary, 400 miles west of this point, for no more water was taken in, although the supply of drinking water gave out before night.

Westward we sped over an undulating, constantly rising plain, entirely treeless, and diversified only by lakes, smooth and oily in appearance, and surrounded by a white rim of alkali deposits. About noon we reached the north shore of Lake Chaplin which we followed for a distance of about twelve miles. This alkali lake extends for about twenty miles to the south, where it connects with another alkali lake of about the same size. Rush Lake and Reed Lake were passed later. Most of the lakes in this region were enlivened by large numbers of sea gulls and numerous ducks were seen on some of them.

About the middle of the afternoon we came to Swift Current, a division point of the Canadian Pacific. The vicinity of this place is quite hilly and Swift Current Creek, which is crossed here, has worn an immense valley into the hills in its northward course towards the Saskatchewan River. Between here and Medicine Hat, 150 miles west of Swift Current, the country is very similar to what we had just seen. At Maple Creek we saw a small patch of corn, which had evidently been planted as an experiment, but which appeared quite a failure.

After nightfall we came through Medicine Hat "the place where cold weather is manufactured". Here, it seems, they had just ordered a new supply of rain, which began as we crossed the South Saskatchewan near the town, and accompanied us the entire distance to Calgary, where we arrived at 3.00 a.m. on Sunday, Aug. 17. Immediately upon our arrival we sought a hotel and soon found ourselves embraced by the arms of Morpheus.

Editor's Note: At this point Father Bruno begins his description of the expedition's travels in Alberta, but since this had no significance for the subsequent history of the colony, the events of these few days can be summarized briefly. Sunday, August 17th, was spent in Calgary, and on the 18th the party proceeded to Wetaskiwin by train. On August 19th they proceeded east, in company with a land guide, Edmund Thompson, a Norwegian from Sauk Center, Minnesota, who was an old acquaintance of Mr. Haskamp's. The trail passed Coal Lake and Bittern Lake. On August 20th they were on the trail from Beaver Lake to Battle River. About three miles past Lake Demay they struck the old trail which followed the government telegraph line from Winnipeg to Edmonton. The expedition decided to proceed eastward on this trail (which though little used was in excellent condition) to Battleford, instead of returning to Wetaskiwin via Vegreville and Beaver Lake. They were averaging forty miles per day, and on August 22nd crossed the boundary between the districts of Alberta and Saskatchewan. On August 24th they passed through the Blackfoot Hills.

TO BRESAYLOR

The night was rather cool and towards morning a slight hoar-frost was deposited about our camping place which was located on rather low ground. The sun rose gloriously bright on August 25th. We could expect another hot day. Hence it was thought advisable to get the earliest possible start. Furthermore, we were in hopes of reaching the nearest settlement at Bresaylor before nightfall, thus being enabled to replenish our rather empty larder.

During the early hours of the forenoon, as usual, we found prairie chickens plentiful. Mr. Thompson had a standing joke about them. He said that he had trained the birds, so that they would line up at his command, but that our hunters were too impatient to wait for the lineup, thus acting to their own disadvantage. On this morning they were indeed lined up well, but we were getting so tired of chicken meat that our nimrods hardly cared to fire at them. Here we began to understand clearly how it was possible for the Israelites to tire of choice quail in the desert.

We had not driven very far when we came to the surveyed line of the Canadian Northern Railway which is in construction between Winnipeg and Edmonton, and which passes through the middle of the Barr colony. For a considerable distance it followed the line of the old trail in townships 47 and 48, and Ranges 24 and 25 west of the third principal meridian. It was clearly distinguishable by the low numbered stakes driven into the soil at short intervals.

About the time we struck the surveyed railway line, our trail gradually began to bend around into a southeasterly direction, an indication that we were nearing Battleford. Thus far our direction had been due east on Township 48 with an occasional short deviation upon Township 47. Henceforth the way led more southward towards Battleford in Township 43.

The country over which we now passed had evident signs of a plentiful water supply. Wet meadows, ponds and lakes, some of them quite large, became more and more numerous. The soil in general was a rich black loam, evidently underlaid by a clay subsoil which prevents too rapid percolation of water. We should gladly have investigated the depth of the topsoil if our spade had not been broken. The woods became more conspicuous and, altogether, the district made a rather favorable impression upon us. What suited us least was, that it lay so near to the dry region over which we had travelled during the last days.

Towards noon we approached a lake, surrounded by very extensive lowlands that were covered with splendid grass, which lay in a beautiful country, nearly level, with numerous fine poplar groves. The trail turned into these natural meadows and to our surprise we saw, across an arm of the lake, a number of large haystacks. Many persons and teams were busily engaged in gathering the abundant hay into stacks. At least we were again within the pale of civilization. The trail led towards a narrow neck of the lake, where there seemed to be an easy passage for our outfits to reach the busy husbandmen.

As we proceeded, the old trail became less and less distinct. Finally it appeared doubtful whether it led through the water or along the north shore of the main body of the lake. We halted and began to consider the advisability of skirting the western arm of the lake. Since this course would, however, consume much time, Mr. Thompson decided to strike boldly through the neck of water that connected the two parts of the lake. We passengers were amazed. The water appeared rather deep with a muddy bottom, and the prospect of getting stuck or entirely sinking down in the muddy depths was anything but agreeable. Mr. Thompson, however, encouraged us by saying that he saw traces of former passages of the lake by wagons and that he felt confident of crossing where any other teams had crossed before.

We had seen so many proofs of our leader's consummate skill as driver in dangerous looking places during the past days that we raised no objections, although this certainly was by far the most unpromising place we had yet attempted to cross. Besides our leader, there was probably no other member in the party who did not regard the passage with great misgivings, but we put on our boldest and most confident faces.

Scarcely had we driven a few yards into the water when the latter reached up to the axles of our rigs. The prospect appeared worse than we had anticipated. Nevertheless we went forward. The water became deeper gradually and almost reached to the bottoms of our wagonboxes ere we had attained the middle of the passage. Then it began to get lower slowly. At last the opposite shore was reached and, with a sigh of relief we found ourselves on dry land again, though it was only meadow land. We looked backward to see how our companions in the other wagon had fared. They bravely followed our track and crossed in safety.

Having crossed, we looked for traces of the old trail, but could find none. Hence we struck across the meadow towards the haystacks where the men were working, about half a mile away. Upon our approach, we found that they were halfbreeds from Bresaylor, who had come out to secure a supply of hay for the winter. They told us that we had about twenty miles to travel to their village. As it was about noon, we stopped at their camp which was close by. It certainly was a great relief to be once more with people whose language we could speak and from whom we could obtain some of the most necessary food supplies. We needed no longer fear starvation, even if unfavorable weather should set in, for we were informed that the distance to Bresaylor was only about 20 miles, and that we could easily reach there by evening.

The halfbreeds with whom we stopped were partly of English or Scotch descent and seemed to be of an intelligent and thrifty class. They had and used the latest and most improved appliances for haymaking. Here I saw for the first time a characteristic halfbreed method for saving oats employed. It might appropriately be termed rotation of horses. A large herd of horses was grazing in the vicinity of the camp. After dinner several of the men brought in the herd and then those animals which were to be hitched up in the afternoon were secured, whilst all the others were again turned out to graze. During the working season no animal is used more than half a day for work, after which it is allowed to rest for two half days. Thus they keep up strength and flesh without being fed grain. As nearly all halfbreeds own large numbers of horses, this method is universally employed by them.

The country over which we passed in the course of the afternoon offered no unusual features. It is generally a fine country, gently rolling, with ponds and some wood, but it seems to become more sandy as one travels eastward towards the North Branch of the Saskatchewan river at Bresaylor. Between four and five o'clock in the afternoon we espied the government telegraph line, which runs from Qu'Appelle in Assiniboia via Battleford and Ft. Pitt on the North Saskatchewan to Edmonton. This line was built as a substitute for the old line along whose course we had travelled for the last week. A peculiarly striking feature of this line was that the telegraph posts consist of gas pipes instead of wooden posts. The frequent interruption of communication through the burning down of the wooden posts by prairie fires had made the use of iron posts desirable. Many of these had evidently gone through a fiery ordeal already, for they were bent into curious shapes, which could have been done only when they were in a heated state. Evidently with a view of preventing such bending, the posts had been supplied with collars a few feet from the top, to which wires had been fastened which were anchored in the soil at some distance from the foot of the posts. Curiously enough, these anchoring wires were all missing. Only here and there a short piece was seen swayed by the wind. Mr. Thompson explained that these anchoring wires were found quite useful by the Indians and halfbreeds whenever they were in need of something wherewith to tie their ponies. Not being expert electricians, they not infrequently, after removing the lower portion of the wire for their own use, threw the remaining portion over the telegraph wire, thus effectually putting the entire line out of operation and causing no end of annoyance. Hence it was found advisable to remove all the anchoring stays.

The advent of the telegraph line brought troubles to Mr. Thompson. Until now it was easy enough to find the right trail because there was but one. From the moment we struck the telegraph, however, trails began to multiply. They ran in every direction. They seemed to come from nowhere and to go to nowhere. Our guide bore with them for some time, but at last, his patience gave away and "curses, not loud but deep" at the "Breed Trails" gave vent to his feelings. We had never heard him curse before.

Soon the first houses of the halfbreed settlement of Bresaylor began to appear in the distance, and towards six o'clock we arrived at what appeared to be a

small village apparently not far from the banks of the river. We stopped to enquire for the telegraph office in order to inform the folks at home of our safe arrival. The barefooted master of the house told us that the office was about half a mile to the south. Asked whither all the trails in the vicinity went, he replied that they went nowhere in particular but that everybody made his own trail wherever he pleased without bothering to take the trails made by his neighbors.

The half mile to the telegraph office seemed exceedingly long. Mr. Thompson contemptuously called it a "Breed Half Mile" and maintained that it was fully three times as long as the white man's half mile.

The telegrapher was not found at home. We stopped at a neighboring house to refresh ourselves with sweet milk which tasted splendidly after the long privation, and if possible, to make arrangements for stopping over night.

The ladies of the house at which we stopped informed us that as the men were out in the country making hay, they could not keep strangers over night, but that we would undoubtedly be able to get lodgings at a house about half a mile south where the father-in-law of one of them lived. This man, we were told, was one of the prominent settlers and that he even owned a well, whence all the neighbors for a considerable distance obtained their drinking water. Our hosts also obtained their drinking water from this well. The usual mode of hauling water among the halfbreeds is to put a water barrel upon a sleigh, attach a team and drag the water home, as near to the kitchen door as possible, where it stands until the supply is exhausted, when more is brought the same way.

What seemed remarkable to us was that these people will go to the trouble of dragging water home every day or two for a life time rather than dig a well at home, which they could do in a couple of days. Mr. Thompson's explanation of this phenomenon was that the "Breeds" are always so busy doing nothing that they never get time to make any improvements.

Arrived at the house where we expected to find lodging for the night, we were again disappointed. The owner had neither hay nor grain for our horses, and the grass of the vicinity was so closely cropped that Mr. Thompson felt very sorry for the good horses which had faithfully brought us through hundreds of miles of uncivilized country thus to be starved at the very border of civilization.

For ourselves we obtained a bountiful supper. Most of our travellers were anxious of spending this last night under the tent, but Mr. Haskamp and myself decided that it was preferable to sleep under a roof. Hence we betook ourselves to the empty granary in which we found a heap of musty hay, which apparently had constituted the roof of the granary until very recently, when a new hay-roof had been placed thereon. By utilizing this hay and our blankets, we were enabled to make a rather comfortable bed for ourselves, and soon we were wrapt in pleasant dreams.

The bright rays of the rising sun, as they stole through the chinks in the walls of the log granary awakened us the next morning. We arose and found that our

companions were busily engaged with preparing breakfast. All were pleased that our camping expedition should soon be at an end, and were in a hurry to be off for Battleford.

Whilst the horses were being hitched up after breakfast some of us took a stroll out to inspect the crops of the farmer on whose premises we had spent the night. We found that the black sandy loam of the vicinity showed signs of great productiveness. The wheat was just turning to a golden color and measured from four to four and a half feet in length, with long ears filled with extraordinarily plump grains. Potatoes were as fine as we had ever seen them anywhere, and other vegetables promised a magnificent yield. We felt convinced that the half-breeds at Bresaylor had shown good judgment when they selected this particular locality on the banks of the North Saskatchewan for their home.

TO BATTLEFORD

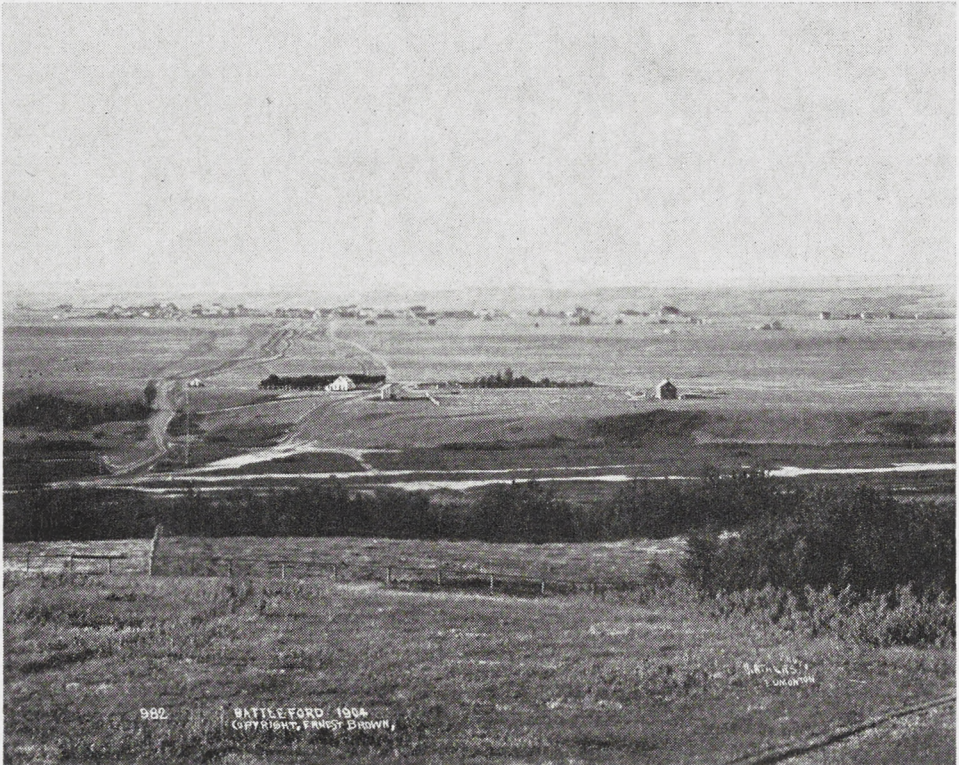
The bright summer sun of August 26, 1902 had run but a small part of its course when we departed for Battleford. We had been told that the distance was about twenty five miles, and we were anxious to arrive in time for the noon-day meal. A mile or two of the journey brought us beyond the confines of the Bresaylor settlement and beyond the fertile district as well. The deeply worn cart-trail now led across sandy plains, which extend along the river for a number of miles back of the banks. Here and there spots were seen that gave evidence of fairly good soil, as they bore a thrifty growth of young poplars. Most of the country seemed, however, to have only very light sandy soil. In many places high dunes had been heaped up by the winds. The very cart trails were deeply hollowed out by the winds, which had carried away the particles of soil loosened by the wheels of the vehicles. A rather poor growth of prairie grass sought to hide the barrenness of the plains with rather indifferent success.

To our surprise we noticed that the poorest and sandiest spots were clothed with a fine growth of dark-green vegetation. Our curiosity was aroused, and I jumped from the wagon to examine these extraordinary plants more closely. I found them to be what I first took for a species of creeping cedars. Upon closer inspection, however, I found them to be trailing junipers. From a strong root, branches up to the thickness of a finger radiated in every direction, creeping along for four or five yards, sending smaller roots out into the sandy soil at intervals of a few inches, and bearing fragrant berries in various stages of maturity. All these branches crept along on the very ground, raising their twigs not more than a couple of inches above the sands. Here and there stood a small shrub growing not more than a foot or two in height, which sent out no trailing branches and bore no berries. Whether these were male plants of the same species or whether they belonged to a different species I was unable to decide. I had never heard of trailing junipers before, and was therefore much struck by this beautiful adaptation of nature to the circumstances. They certainly fulfill a very useful office, as they hold down the drifting sands and prevent their being carried away by the winds. In places we found that whole dunes had been overrun by the junipers which clothed their naked sides with a bright evergreen carpet.

Most of this sandy district lay between the Thunderchild and Moosomin Indian reservations which adjoin each other and extend from the North Saskatchewan to the Battle rivers, covering an area of perhaps two townships. If all the soil within these reservations resembles that along the trail, it is not to be wondered at if the poor Indians do not devote themselves extensively to agriculture.

Towards eleven o'clock in the forenoon we again saw cultivated fields and were surprised to see much fine crops on what seemed to be rather mediocre soil. The latter, however, improved gradually as we advanced. As on our entire trip so far, we again had a real hot Minnesota summer day, and we were beginning to feel apprehensive lest we should find it too difficult for the horses to drive through to Battleford without first halting for dinner. Hence it was a very agreeable surprise to us when, at about half past eleven o'clock we suddenly beheld the town before us. With new vigor we pushed forward. Ere long we heard the Angelus bell on the Catholic Church give the sign for prayer, and shortly afterwards, we stopped before the larger of Battleford's two hotels.

We were cordially received by the genial proprietor, Mr. Champagne, who is well known in Saskatchewan political circles. He had rooms assigned for us, where we could put our exteriors into somewhat more presentable shape, after which



Battleford, 1904.

Ernest Brown Collection.

we sat down to what appeared a sumptuous feast after our experiences of the past week. Meanwhile the horses were attended to in Mr. Champagne's barns.

After dinner, Mr. Thompson visited the town to purchase supplies for his return trip, and Mr. Johns bought himself a gun to protect himself against the Indians, and incidently to help procure fresh meat on the trip. Meanwhile the various members of our company wrote letters to inform friends at home of the experiences of the last eight days.

When Mr. Thompson returned we settled with him for the use of his teams and expressed to him our great satisfaction with the efficiency he had shown in conducting our party safely over the plains of the wilderness from distant Alberta. Then we handed over a small purse to him to which every member of the party had contributed a dollar in order to counteract the effects of poor water on his return trip. With regret we saw this excellent man depart, for he was anxious to leave the village not feeling as much at home anywhere else as he did under his tent on the prairies.

We now strolled out into the village to get a look at the oldest town in the Canadian territories. Battleford is the first capital of the territories, having been designated as such in 1877. In 1883, however, the seat of government was transferred to Regina, which was much more accessible, being on the Canadian Pacific, then the only railway in the territories.

At the time of our visit, Battleford was an incorpoarated village with a population of only five or six hundred souls, mostly half-breeds. In June 1904, however, it was raised to the dignity of a "town", and it has probably more than doubled its population in the last two years. The buildings were mostly small and constructed of logs or rough boards. About the only noteworthy buildings were the barracks of the Mounted Police and the Catholic Mission. The latter boasted of a fine, though not very large, frame church and a large day school and academy conducted by Sisters of the Assumption, who were giving instruction to about 120 scholars. Rev. H. Bigonesse, O.M.I., the genial pastor, is a true Frenchman, but has a very good command of the English language.

After calling at the telegraph office to send away some dispatches, where we also inspected the weather observatory which sends out its reports several times a day to all parts of Canada and the United States, we also called at the office of the Saskatchewan Herald, the oldest newspaper in Saskatchewan if not in the Territories. We were interviewed by an unassuming gentleman, Mr. Laurie, whom we found to be a splendid model for every western newspaper ham who wished to make his calling a success. Mr. Laurie was editor and proprietor of the Herald and at the same time served in the capacity of reporter, foreman, compositor, manager of the advertising and job departments, at the same time performing the many duties of the printer's devil. On the following morning we also saw him delivering milk to the inhabitants of the village with his dairy cart. His paper was a well written eight page four column weekly. Undoubtedly the gentleman with the multitudinous duties was quite successful in his enterprise. About

a year later I heard that he had died, but am unable to say whether the report is trustworthy.

Mr. Laurie introduced us to a friend of his, Mr. Brokoski, who happened to drop into the office. He is a retired government engineer, who was now conducting a sub-office of dominion lands. Mr. B. was also notary public and dispenser of general information about the surrounding country. He informed us frankly that he gladly gave his service free to intending homesteaders, but that land-buyers and speculators were expected to pay him for such information as he furnished them.

After supper I took a walk outside of the village to recite my Office. This was done with many interruptions, however, on account of the numerous mosquitoes. As the shades of night fell upon the scene, an old Indian drove homeward towards the reservation, with his pony and two-wheeled cart. Evidently he had obtained some forbidden fire-water, for he was talking, singing and shouting aloud as he disappeared in the darkness.

Since we had made arrangements for two teams to take us to Saskatoon early the next morning, we retired early and, in spite of the mosquitoes' musical notes, soon rested in the arms of Morpheus.

FROM BATTLEFORD TO THE SOUTH SASKATCHEWAN

By waiting at Battleford for another day, we could have taken the stage to Saskatoon. We were, however, anxious to get away as soon as possible, and so had made arrangements with a young man for two rigs to take us away on the morning of August 27. By half past seven we started out under the guidance of Donald, a young Canadian of Scotch extraction. As we drove through the town, it seemed that most of the inhabitants were still asleep. Donald informed us that stores never opened here before eight o'clock. We passed by the Catholic church and school, near which we met Mr. Laurie with his horse and milk-cart on his rounds of delivery. A short distance from town, on the north bank of the Battle River, we saw the spacious barracks of the Mounted Police. Then the road descended along the high, steep bank of the river. The latter was crossed on a pile bridge which appeared rather old and hardly able to withstand the rush of ice in the Spring. Near it, however, a splendid steel bridge on heavy stone pillars was in course of construction, high above the level of the river. All the steel had to be transported ninety miles by wagon from Saskatoon, the nearest railway station.

Ascending the south bank of the Battle, we obtained a fine view of Battleford, which is situated on an ideal place for an Indian post. It lies on a high level plateau in the very angle formed by the Battle and the North Saskatchewan at their confluence, thus dominating both rivers. Back of the town extends a level prairie over which it would be difficult for marauding Indians to approach unobserved. In spite of its fine position, it seems, however, that this former capital of the Territories is doomed, for the Canadian Northern Railway has decided to run along the opposite bank of the Saskatchewan to a point ten miles

above the town, where it will cross. Undoubtedly a new town will arise at the crossing and the inhabitants of the old town will gradually move away.

For some distance beyond the Battle, the road passes over a rather rough country, which is however, fairly well settled. The soil is of good quality, and considerable wood of different kinds is in evidence. On account of the large traffic by teams, the road has been put in good condition by grading down the hills and filling in the valleys. At one cut through a hill, called Snake Hill, we saw an interesting phenomenon. The entire cut was gutted by holes, from which snakes could be seen projecting parts of their bodies to bask in the warm sunshine. The number of holes must have amounted to several hundred, and each one seemed to have one or more snakes. They were of the harmless garter type. As far as I could learn there are no poisonous snakes found in the Canadian Territories, even the dangerous rattler not extending his habitat across the international boundary.

About the middle of the forenoon we stopped at a farm house for a drink of water. In the yard I found a curiosity, which I took along for our museum. It consisted of the shell of the hoof of a mounted policeman's horse which had met with an incident and was killed here. The iron was still on the shell and the number of the horse could still be plainly seen engraved upon the front of the shell.

Having followed the west bank of the Saskatchewan down for several hours, we gradually drew back farther and farther. The country became less rough and less inhabited. Here and there we passed over stretches of drifted sand. In general, the country was rolling with little surface water and little wood, thus presenting an appearance similar to that west of Battleford. By half past ten we arrived at a stopping place where meals were served to travellers at fifty cents. It consisted of an ancient log hut with apparently no provisions for lodging strangers. The proprietor, a lean, lank, red-bearded man, about six feet six inches tall, took our order for dinner, which was attended to at once. Meanwhile the horses were being fed by Donald, and I went down to a little shade of the trees. This I found a difficult task on account of the aggressiveness of the mosquitoes.

By the time dinner was ready, the stage from Saskatoon had arrived with one passenger, a pleasant gentleman whom we took to be a travelling salesman. All of us sat down to dinner, which was rather frugal, consisting of potatoes, salt pork, tomatoes and bread with black tea. By this time our friend Henry had become tired of pork and black tea. Hence the meal was not much according to his liking. We named the place "Longfellow Hotel" in honor of its tall proprietor, and Henry remarked that the Longfellow Hotel was a good one from which to warn people away.

The afternoon was an uneventful one, so that we were not displeased when we arrived at the Halfway House at about five o'clock, where Donald proposed to stop for the night. The place was kept by a young half-breed and his better half of like ancestry. The house was quite spacious, neat and well kept, and the meals corresponded, so that we soon felt at home and spent a refreshing night.

Early on the following morning we found ourselves in a rough country, the northward extension of the Eagle Hills. After a few hours we crossed the Eagle Hill Creek which here flows northward to the Saskatchewan, and soon we passed out upon a fine level country. A few miles further on we came to a Doukhobor village, where the people were evidently celebrating a holiday. The Doukhobors are a Russian sect, whose religious tenets resemble those of the Quakers. They were much persecuted in their native country. Hence, through the good offices of the Philadelphia Quakers, arrangements were made to settle them in Western Canada. They are physically a fine race, tall, strong and good-looking. The men dress in blue, wearing low blue cloth caps, blue pantaloons and vests and blue coats of a cut like that of the Prince Albert coat, only shorter, so that its lower extremity reaches only halfway between the belt and the knees. The women have a great liking for gaudy colored dress, calico dresses with large, bright colored flowers and bright head shawls being universal among them. The village and its inhabitants made a very good impression upon us, as everything was neat and clean. The Doukhobors have communistic tendencies. The Canadian merchants know this and have no hesitancy about giving them credit, for the entire village holds itself responsible for the debts contracted by any of its members. They are sober and very industrious and frugal, but ignorant and prone to outbursts of religious fanaticism. In time they will undoubtedly become very valuable citizens. There are several villages of them in this vicinity of the Elbow of the North Saskatchewan.

About noon we came to the outskirts of the Mennonite settlements west of Saskatoon. Here the Mennonites live on their individual farms rather than in villages, as they are accustomed to do in Manitoba, and they seem to be more broad-minded and progressive. They had splendid crops of wheat, which were about half cut at this date—an agreeable contrast to the late crops we had seen in Alberta.

By three o'clock we arrived in Saskatoon, where we registered at the Windsor Hotel just in time to escape a heavy storm, which rushed down from Assiniboia along the South Saskatchewan River. It was a sharp thunderstorm accompanied by a strong wind, which succeeded in wrecking a new building which was in course of erection and had not been properly braced. Though it was of but short duration, the inhabitants thought it the most severe storm they had experienced in many years.

As no train was to leave for Rosthern until the next afternoon, we spent a full day in Saskatoon, a busy town, then having about 400 inhabitants. About the only building worth seeing in the town was the school house, which was remarkable on account of its queer architecture. When approached from any direction except the north, it looked like a powder house, being erected of stone and having no windows except on the north side. The door was on the west. What motives the builders of this unique piece of architecture had in view, can be conjectured only. Probably they wished to spare the eyes of the pupils by shutting out all direct rays of light, thus having only a subdued diffused light in the room.

They forgot, however, that to shut up children in a room from which sunlight is perpetually exiled, is about as sensible as to plant sunflowers in a dark cellar.

The lengthy stay at Saskatoon gave us a welcome opportunity to attend to our correspondence and to enjoy a good night's rest. Our friend Henry thought he had seen enough of Canada for a while and decided to return home with the next southbound train. In the afternoon of the 29 of August, the rest of our party took the northbound mixed train for Rosthern, forty miles away. We passed over a fine, fertile prairie country, which surrounds the stations of Clark's Crossing, Osler and Hague. Most of the inhabitants in this district are thrifty Mennonite farmers, who were the pioneers in this country, some having come already as early as 1890. They had to contend with great difficulties at first, so that many would gladly have returned, if they had not been too poor to pay the fare. Perhaps this was fortunate for them. Now nearly all of these old settlers are rich, many of them being worth twenty to thirty thousand dollars.

It was after dark when we arrived in Rosthern. Mr. Roy guided us to the Queen's Hotel. Here we met Mr. Gerard Ens, one of Mr. Roy's old friends. Mr. Ens is one of the earliest settlers at Rosthern. He has a splendid farm with excellent buildings within a mile of the town. He is a native of Russia, being born near St. Petersburg, of German parentage. He speaks, reads and writes



Saskatoon, 1903.

Archives of Saskatchewan.

the German, English and Russian languages with equal fluency and can handle several other languages quite well, thus being a very valuable man to the government, which employs him frequently as interpreter. He is immigration officer for Rosthern and minister of the Swedenborgian church at the same place. We found in him a very genial man, who was delighted at the prospects of having a large German Catholic colony founded within reach of Rosthern. He promised to take us out into the country the next morning. A double rig and a one-horse buggy having been arranged for with a liveryman, and a supply of provisions, ammunition and other necessities for such a trip having been purchased from Mr. Ens' friend Unruh, we returned to the hotel and soon retired.

(To be continued)

RECOLLECTIONS AND REMINISCENCES

Balcarres Recollections

by MRS. ELIZABETH E. WEBSTER

IN June of 1884 my parents, John and Elizabeth Balfour, with their family of eight sons and three daughters, came west. I was the youngest, just three and a half years old. Young as I was I quite vividly remember the highlights of the trip. The tears shed on saying goodbye to relatives and friends who honestly believed we would be shot by the Indians, and eaten up by the wolves. Our eastern home had been Haliburton, Ontario, beautiful for scenery, a sportsman's paradise but lacking future for young men.

Arriving at Indian Head we stayed overnight at the Commercial Hotel owned and operated by Bill Boyd. In the morning we left for Balcarres, the land of promise, our conveyance being a team of horses hitched to a wagon. We came eight miles north, then through the Qu'Appelle Valley, and on twelve miles more until we reached Balcarres, in all a distance of twenty-four miles.

We soon found out there were a number of other families settled around on homesteads, including the Deritts, Johnstons, Turners, Websters, Stauffers, Leeches, Shores, Williams', and Thorpes. These families with my parents contributed largely to the religious and educational beginnings in the Balcarres district, which are the subject of these recollections.

Our first homes were built of logs, peeled and hewed, then chinked and plastered even, then whitewashed inside and out, with a thatched roof and lumber floors, scrubbed white. My mother had lots of mats which she put down. These homes were quite comfortable but often required repairing. This much I have written as a background for my story.

We were first visited by Rev. Thos. Lawson, a Methodist minister stationed at Qu'Appelle Station, known as "Troy" at that time. This would be about 1886. Mr. Lawson would occasionally come and have services in different homes. This was wonderful and greatly appreciated. Yet following tradition and precepts, our parents longed for a church, a sanctuary in which to worship God and a centre for church activity. As a result a meeting was called at which it was decided to build a church. Bees were organized to haul all material from Indian Head, the same to be purchased from the Sherwood Lumber Co. The site was procured and those who had any previous experience or knowledre in the art of building, and those who could at least drive nails and the many other things necessary, all contributed. The result was a comfortable little church seating a congregation of around one hundred, adding reverence and dignity to the prairies. As it was a Methodist minister who first discovered us, and the majority in the community Methodist, a Methodist Church it was to be, one of the first ones in Saskatchewan. The church had an aisle up the centre, comfortable pews and a platform. My father and mother donated the pulpit and, I might add, that pulpit is still the

one used in the United Church in Balcarres. Well do I remember hearing my parents commenting on the wonderful spirit of co-operation demonstrated in the building of that church. Our first minister was Rev. Oliver Darwin, who lived at Fort Qu'Appelle, as it was to be the head of a three-point charge, Kenlis, Balcarres and Fort Qu'Appelle. The opening of this church was a red letter day, never to be forgotten in the history of Balcarres. All alike rejoiced. Those were the days of real union and co-operation. The question might well be asked, why couldn't it have continued?

The educational beginnings were being established under adverse circumstances, owing to the presence of a number of bachelors, and some men with families who lived toward the north. These men considered school taxes (which would amount to \$2.40 on a quarter section) were worth more to them than making it possible for their children to get at least a public school education. In spite of all odds, those who were interested (whose names I have previously mentioned in the beginning) succeeded in organizing the Balcarres School District No. 87, in 1886. The trustees appointed were my father, John Balfour, Wes. Johnson, and Arthur Williams. My father was also appointed Secretary Treasurer. A homesteader had vacated a little log house, it being located in the centre of the district as the *School Ordinance* called for. The owner, Mr. Johnston, gladly loaned it to the School Board to be used as a school. This little building after some renovating which included a new floor, whitewashing, etc., served the purpose very nicely. Well do I remember our nice new desks with the ink wells, the teacher's desk with that marvellous globe standing on it, and the cutest little clock as well. There was also an arm chair for the teacher. Then there were large cards with a lot of the three lettered words on, for we beginners to learn to spell



Fort Qu'Appelle, 1885, showing N.W.M.P. Barracks.

and form short sentences. There were maps on the walls and blackboards. This was the set-up for our first school in Balcarres.

The attendance wasn't large, but enough pupils as called for, and there were others in the district that would soon be of school age. This school functioned three years. A Mr. Cummings and a Mr. Stauffer were the first teachers. In the meantime the group to the north had increased in numbers, and it was found necessary to put the matter to a vote, the consequence being the school was closed. Not to be beaten the trustees conceived the idea—Why not cut off that row of sections to the north, which fortunately included all the kickers, and add a row of sections to the south? This, in conjunction with the Department of Education, was achieved. By so doing a goodly number of pupils would be added, as well as many cultured families who contributed in a large degree to the religious and educational tone of the community. The centre of the district was to be now a mile farther south. On the south corner of my father's homestead a new one-room frame school was built. It was two years before everything was in readiness to commence school once more. Miss Kate Gillespie, a very efficient teacher, taught there for one year before going into missionary work among the Indians. Later she became principal of the File Hills Indian School, then a Presbyterian Mission. Miss Gillespie held this position until she became the wife of the Hon. W. R. Motherwell, who needs no introduction and whose memory is still loved and cherished, as also is that of Mrs. Motherwell.

E. A. Partridge also taught for a short time and also Murdock McKenzie. About this time the trustee board was fortunate in securing the services of a young man from Ontario, who had graduated from Toronto University and had come west to make his fortune, W. E. Stevenson, B.A. Mr. Stevenson was the first teacher in Saskatchewan known to teach high school work in a public school, as well as the public school classes. As I was one of a small class who received this instruction, I want to pay tribute to Mr. Stevenson for making it possible for me to have what money could never buy. Mr. Stevenson is well known in southern Saskatchewan as a school inspector and later as a teacher in the Regina Normal School.

There always was for me, and shall continue to be, a wonderful remance in the prairies. Other countries I have seen, but none to me so beautiful as the prairies of Saskatchewan. Those lovely verses of William Cullen Bryant so beautifully portray them:

These are the gardens of the desert,
These the unshorn fields boundless and beautiful,
For which the speech of England has no name—The Prairies.

The Newspaper Scrapbook

THE first shipment of cattle from the Canadian Northwest ranches will be made shortly. There are now being loaded at Calgary forty-five cars of cattle, aggregating about 900 head; and they will shortly pass through the city en route for Montreal, from which port they will be shipped to Liverpool. The cattle are from the Cochrane ranches. This is an important event in the cattle trade, as these cattle will be the vanguard of what is hoped will be the chief export from the western portions of the Territories. Hitherto all the surplus cattle on the ranges have been killed for the local market; but the time has now arrived when an outside market will have to be looked for. It is not probable that there will be any heavy shipments this year, but in a year or so the business will reach large proportions.

— *The Commercial* (Winnipeg) September, 1887.

TERRITORIAL TELEGRAPH SYSTEM

Mr. Hartley Gisborne is superintendent of the Northwest lines of the Government telegraph service. He says the Government has abandoned the old line from Battleford to Edmonton on the south side of the North Saskatchewan. Since the fall of 1886 they have constructed a new line on the north side of the river and have made considerable extensions. Last season they built from Edmonton to Victoria, and this year to Pitt. Tamarac poles were used throughout, and No. 6 wire, so that there is not a better line in the country. From Battleford to Pitt iron poles were used exclusively.

The line from Battleford to Edmonton is 287 miles. All the important Indian reserves are traversed by this line. From Battleford to Humboldt this year new tamarac poles were put in for 150 miles of line. From Humboldt to Qu'Appelle station for a distance of 146 miles every alternate pole was replaced by a new cedar pole. New offices were opened at Fort Saskatchewan, Victoria village, Moose and Pitt.

The abandoned line was about 256 miles long, but the only station closed was that at Elma, where no business was done. The staff continues the same with a number of additions. The changes have resulted in a considerable increase of business.

— *The Emigrant* (Winnipeg), April, 1888.

CLOTHES AND THE LEGISLATOR

In its account of the opening of the Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly, the *Toronto Daily Star* has considerable to say on the question of the wearing apparel of the Members of the new House. Upon the whole the eastern paper can hardly be said to be complimentary with regard to the sartorial decorations of Saskatchewan's chosen legislators as the following article demonstrates:

"The Windsor uniforms, which have become a commonplace to habits of the openings at Ottawa, were nowhere in evidence at this Saskatchewan celebration, excepting upon the form of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor. The Honorable Amédée Emmanuel Forget was dignified and courtly in his 'official clothes', with sword, cocked hat, and gold lace. The escort, furnished by the Royal North-West Mounted Police, furnished the color to set off the function, the officers in their handsome uniforms and the men in the wellknown redcoats. Thus far, and no farther, did the scheme of uniforms extend. Plebian costumes, of various degrees of style, characterised the Cabinet Ministers and the Members. Premier Scott, of course, wore the regulation frock suit, with top hat, as did also his associates in the Government. The other members of the House were plain and unassuming in their sartorial decorations. Most of them had made their own way by dint of strenuous toil as pioneers in the West, and their promotion to positions of legislative prominence did not warrant them in making the jump from plain clothes to 'glad duds'.

"In this connection the attitude of Hon. Thomas A. MacNutt, who has been selected as Speaker of the House, is interesting and rather amusing. He was being jollied by his friends about the necessity for his decking himself in silk gown and three cornered hat, and he did not relish the idea. 'I guess I would feel more at home in overalls', he declared. Democracy is alive and well in Saskatchewan".

— *The Leader* (Regina), April 3, 1906.

USE OF AUTOS BY N.W.M.P.

It is reported that the North West Mounted Police are to be provided with motor cars for use in tracking down criminals. By means of the machines they will be able to cover the country much more quickly and hence do more effective work. With their new methods they will have to be given a new name. How would "The Motor Police" do?

The departure means the last of the romance of the West. The old bad men have long disappeared, and the remnant of the Indians are on the reserves. Still the country remains vast and the incomers have among them the ordinary human percentage of evil disposed persons. Hence there is need of consistent policing. The people living in isolated sections have learned to depend on the mounted police for protection and oftentimes aid. The necessity for the force has not disappeared and will not disappear for many years to come. There was need of late for the introduction of modern methods in dealing with the Mounted Police. In the first place, their pay needed increasing, and the present government has arranged for such increase. Plans will be devised for the strengthening of its numbers, and we understand that steps in this direction have already been taken. The introduction of the motor car will make apprehension follow crime more swiftly and certainly.

— *The Whitewood Herald*, April 17, 1913.

Book Reviews

THE STRUGGLE FOR RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT IN THE NORTH-WEST TERRITORIES, 1870-1897. By *Lewis Herbert Thomas*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1956. Pp. viii, 276, maps. \$5.00.

Readers of *Saskatchewan History* should be particularly gratified by the appearance of Dr. Thomas' study, for apart from the general appeal it will have as a sound and scholarly work, its author is Provincial Archivist and one of those responsible for this journal. Dr. Thomas has recounted vividly the story of the prolonged debate between Dominion and North-Western leaders over the proper form of government for the Territories, and his book in addition to its merits as a piece of research, tells an interesting yarn.

The book chronicles in detail the attempt of the Canadian government to treat the North-West as a colony, during a period when the Dominion's policy followed closely that taken by Britain towards her colonies before 1846. "The mantle of 'imperial' pretensions," Dr. Thomas writes, "was donned with alacrity in Ottawa, and only put off with reluctance". Although such parliamentarians as David Mills repeatedly drew the more advanced American territorial system to Ottawa's attention, the Dominion cabinet was unmoved. "In reality, Canada had adopted a system which resembled the primitive one which had long since been discarded by the United States".

The story of how the North-Westerners battled their way from colonial status to responsible government, in the hands of a less adroit writer, could have been told in cold official prose. Instead, Dr. Thomas has sensibly chosen to delineate his chief characters as clearly as the protagonists in a good novel, and to make clear that he thinks the North-Westerners were in the right from the start. From the author's shrewd appraisals of his actors, and especially of those who opposed responsible government, and from his willingness to speak ill from time to time of an "obtuse and stubborn" Dominion, the book derives many of its distinctive traits.

Since the Conservative party was in power for most of the period under scrutiny, Sir John A. Macdonald and his lieutenants must bear the brunt of Dr. Thomas' criticisms of federal policy, although the Mackenzie administration appears to have been equally unenlightened. Macdonald of course believed in centralized authority, and having had to accept a federal system in 1867 was not going to relinquish readily control over so vast an area as the North-West, with its potentialities as a factor in his plans for a national economy, and as a source of patronage. The actual form that territorial government should take was never as important a topic in Ottawa as it was on the plains, and among the aggravations which the North-Westerners had to tolerate were indifference and ignorance; of these the ablest exponent was Hon. T. M. Daly, Minister of the Interior in the 1890's, who could not distinguish between responsible government and provincial status.

But federal policy was based also on positive opposition to responsible government in the Territories, and the Dominion appointed a series of lieutenant-

governors acting under strict instructions (often relayed by frustratingly slow communications between east and west) and with wide administrative powers, to manage the North-West. The activities of Governors Dewdney and Royal are particularly well described by Dr. Thomas, but none of the rest are slighted. Against these agents of the Father government (it is impossible in dealing with Canada as a colonial power to think of it as a Mother Country) the North-Westerners used all their persuasive powers, but "obstruction or deadlock . . . (became) one of the chief weapons of the agitators in their struggle for increased autonomy".

Many other aspects of Dr. Thomas' book are worthy of comment. His prose is clear and forceful. Wherever possible he has referred to western traditions relevant to government, such as those connected with the religion which gave the métis his concept of minority rights, and the organized buffalo hunt which required him to be both independent and capable of "concerted action under leaders of their own choice". Eastern opinion to the contrary Dr. Thomas asserts, "society in the North-West was not completely primitive", and goes on to establish his point, which parts of the East may not yet have conceded. No part of the book is weak, although I wish that Dr. Thomas had portrayed the leading North-Westerners as sharply as their opponents. From any serious viewpoint, this is a fine book, and one which offers a comforting commentary on the work being done in the Archives of Saskatchewan.

NORMAN WARD.

PRAIRIE PROGRESS: CONSUMER CO-OPERATION IN SASKATCHEWAN. By *Jim F. C. Wright*. Saskatoon: Federated Co-operatives Ltd., 1956. pp.xi, 228, illus. \$2.25.

Much has been said and written on the theme of co-operation in Saskatchewan. The social and ethical principles of what has rightly been called a way of life have been at times overlaid by statistics produced to prove, willy-nilly, that this province is the heart of the co-operative movement. Mr. Wright in his fine book *Prairie Progress*, maintains in forthright manner that the advances made in the co-operative field have been achieved by people who first envisaged the practical ideal and who then worked toward it. He has done a service to us all in reminding us of the origins of the co-operative movement here, and of that dynamic which grew out of the vision and vitality of prairie people striving together in a practical way toward a common ideal.

There are many complimentary things to be said about this work. In this era of high prices it is refreshing to find a book with good type face, generous white margins, serviceable binding and with an attractive dust cover, selling for \$2.25. There are few such reading values on the market to-day. As a physical item *Prairie Progress* earns good marks.

Mr. Wright states in the Author's Note that he has "tried to put into words something of the vision, practicality and persistence of some of the pioneers who made possible remarkable expansion of consumer co-operation in the central

province of Canada's prairie west". This is a broad aim and the reader, aware of this, will enjoy the wide-ranging casts of the author and will appreciate the deliberate fixing of name and place to each event and the pen-nail sketches of the people who played a role in each chapter. The story is anchored in a significant amount of primary detail.

Mr. Wright begins this book with a chapter on the Rochdale experiment and he sets out lucidly the aims and the achievements of these pioneers in the co-operative field. Subsequent chapters have to do with the co-operative story in prairie Canada. Not only has the author followed the main course of developments but he has also ventured into the byways as co-operative and farm associations became more numerous and views strongly held came in conflict. In a very practical way he has chosen specific co-operative experiments and has written fully on these as representative of typical thinking and action of the time. This has given a depth and a root to the whole, whilst the numerous quotations from the records, letters and newspapers of the day give a further strength to the book.

The author was set a formidable task in attempting to deal with the origin and history of the many co-operative activities in Saskatchewan in one short book. This was particularly true since the topic of consumer co-operation was to be emphasized. Wisely he restricted his efforts to the practical problems which confronted co-operative associations and to the means taken to deal with each situation. Even then parts of the book leave the impression that the author found it difficult to include what he considered to be the significant developments and at the same time maintain a smooth flowing narrative.

The book follows in general a topical outline. Thus one chapter may deal with a specific association, another with the handling of a specific commodity. This does, admittedly, give the whole a cylindrical development but an attempt to proceed in chronological order would have led to confusion of names, associations and commodities. As it is, the recurrence of readily recognizable names prominent in each chapter gives a tolerably unifying effect, while the reader is carried along over financial statements, commission reports and literary road blocks by the vigour of the author's prose.

Prairie Progress ends rather abruptly and this reader was disappointed that no synthesis either of philosophical aims or of material gains was attempted. There is an epilogue prepared by staff members of the Federated Co-operatives Limited which brings the story up to 1955. It is well done, but co-operative advance did not cease in 1955 or 1956 and surely in the recognition that the growth of co-operatives is to continue it would have been more fitting had the author been asked to draw his own conclusions in his own words. The epilogue could then have been included as an appendix.

Having written all the above as a reader who enjoyed *Prairie Progress* very much I must add a note as a librarian. This book is a most welcome addition to any library collection. It acts out the relationship of the myriad farmer and co-operative associations that have played a part in the story of co-operation in

prairie Canada. It identifies the spokesman for each group. It has a strong and authentic ring. In fact it is the best handbook that has yet appeared on the subject.

JOHN H. ARCHER.

GO WEST YOUNG MAN, I DID. By A. G. Hopkins, Ilfracombe, England: Arthur H. Stockwell Ltd., [1955]. Pp. 286. 15 shillings.

The reading of *Go West Young Man, I Did*, by Dr. A. G. Hopkins, was to this reviewer a real pleasure. This was not alone because of the interesting manner in which the author has recorded his experiences but more especially because of the more intimate background which the book provides of an interesting and authentic character whom I have been privileged to know for upwards of half a century.

The book introduces the author's family associates and describes a number of his youthful experiences in London before he migrated to Canada. Life in Ontario, and University training in veterinary science and in agricultural science (with degrees in both) provided exceptional qualifications for professional service.

Dr. Hopkins achieved success in agricultural journalism and in administrative work on the staff of the Veterinary Director General for Canada. He subsequently chose to take up farming, with the breeding of Shorthorn cattle as a specialty, in a new and growing Saskatchewan community (R.M. of Fertile Valley) which came to be known by place names from England introduced by the Hopkins brothers.

In his narrative, Dr. Hopkins reviews many personal experiences characteristic of frontier communities, and mentions many well-known Englishmen who, like himself, were successful 'transplants' from the Old Country and in a new environment made worthy contributions to the sound development of Saskatchewan.

Go West Young Man was obviously prepared for readers in England as well as in Saskatchewan. Its octogenarian author has reason to offer it with confidence although the publishers might have been more vigilant in detecting minor typographical errors. Many readers would be grateful to Dr. Hopkins if he had given the names of prominent persons concerned with incidents to which he alludes. The book is, however, a worthy addition to the many publications which appeared about the time of celebration of Saskatchewan's Golden Jubilee.

F. H. AULD.

LEVKO. By Anne Macmillan. Toronto: Longmans, Green and Co., 1956. Pp. 159. \$2.75.

Life on the Warnichuk farm near Yorkton is disrupted by the arrival of a strange boy from a D.P. camp in Europe. He is fourteen-year old Levko, who

comes to live with Meg and Ivan and their parents, having no idea where his own parents are. All the family knows about him is that he is "Gramp" Warnichuk's nephew. There is plenty of action and interest in the story. Levko gets into predicaments such as falling into a dugout on the farm and having to be rescued, and trying to go to Winnipeg in the family jeep, alone, after one driving lesson. He also has the habit of disappearing at odd hours of the day and night, which heightens the mystery of his behaviour. Meg and Ivan do everything they can to help him adjust to his new life, but after more than a year he is still rather suspicious and remote. They feel they have failed when Levko hides an escaped prisoner on the farm and even lets him take the prize horse Diamond for a get-away. The chase and capture of the prisoner (by Meg and Ivan, of course) should hold the attention of 'teen-age readers.

Things resolve themselves quickly; the final unraveling of Levko's secret is combined with a big fire, and Ivan's commencement day speech.

One weakness of the story is the inadequate explanation of this fire. At first, it is suggested that several people, including the police, think Levko started it. After some emphasis is laid on this, Levko flatly denies having set it, and the matter is dropped. It is unsatisfactory to be left to guess that the author means it was just an accident, after all. And there are other places where the characters or situations are changed or solved too abruptly. For example, the nasty Mr. Potter, who refuses to believe there is any good in these "foreigners", changes his mind immediately upon hearing some details of Levko's past, and stops trying to get the boy into trouble. This is a quick way of getting rid of Mr. Potter, but it is rather unconvincing.

The characters are well-drawn, and for the most part speak as one feels they would in real life. There are exceptions, though. Meg and Ivan are "typical" teen-agers, and it sounds odd for Meg to exclaim, "When up to bat he's an elephant, when he runs he's a deer". Or, Ivan is made to say, "Perhaps he hasn't been on a horse since he was a wee lad." Why would a boy of Ukrainian extraction use such a phrase?

Emphasis is laid on the varied backgrounds of Canada's people, and the need for understanding and tolerance of new Canadians and their ways. The message becomes a sermon at times, which is unfortunate, but in spite of that the point is well made.

KITTY WOOD.

Notes and Correspondence

The final official publication of the Saskatchewan Golden Jubilee Committee appeared in the autumn of 1956. It was Boyd N. Wettlaufer's *The Mortlach Site in the Besant Valley of Central Saskatchewan*. This 113 page monograph may be characterized as a pioneering work about our earliest pioneers. It describes the first thorough archaeological investigation undertaken in this province—directed by Mr. Wettlaufer during the summers of 1954 and 1955. A well trained scientist himself, Mr. Wettlaufer was well equipped to elicit the co-operation of other scientists in the province in providing essential data for this report on the activities of early plains dwellers. Through the use of carbon 14 tests at the University of Saskatchewan, occupancy of the Mortlach site as early as 1500 B.C. was established. Thus for the first time we have the basis for a chronology of early man in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Wettlaufer's report is primarily, and very properly, a scientific one. It is not a popularization, but rather a thorough and detailed presentation of the evidence provided by the artifacts, the soil profiles, and relevant data established by students of climatic history and Great Plains archaeology in the United States. The perceptive reader, however, cannot fail to be thrilled by the light which this study throws on one of the great adventures of the human race, the peopling of the North American continent. It is to be hoped that this pioneer investigation will be the first of many in this province which will delineate more precisely and completely the main stages in that great adventure.

Copies of *The Mortlach Site* may be obtained by writing to the Legislative Library, Legislative Building, Regina.

Reports of the last three monthly meetings of the Wolverine Hobby and Historical Society have been received from Mrs. Florence H. T. Barker of Spy Hill. Of particular interest to local historians was the reminiscent address given at the October meeting by Mr. Newton E. Jamieson of Victoria, B.C., formerly a pioneer resident of the Welwyn district. Commenting on the harvesting methods and pioneer diet during the 1880's Mr. Jamieson remarked,

"There was an engineer, fireman, tankman, two feeders, two band cutters, four pitchers, one busheler, and one straw man, thirteen in all; then the farmer needed at least two men to draw grain, two in the granary, one to help load the machine, and four on the straw pile, making a total of twenty-two men to be fed . . . When we threshed, we used to go two or more together with oxen or horses to Birtle with a grist and bring back our flour, bran and shorts, and let me say right here some of the flour made from frozen wheat was the bane of the cook's life. It would rise to the top of the pan, and then run all over. However, we ate it, it didn't kill, and we were happy. For meat, sometimes we had none, but ducks were very plentiful in season and prairie chickens all the time; then if an ox had outlived his usefulness as a worker, he was killed and eaten, and if it is so that tough chewing makes for strong teeth, then the old timers should have dandies."

The Society is continuing to show commendable interest in the development of the Harmony Colony site, and received a report at its November meeting on the survey of the site by Mr. George Zarski of the Department of Natural Resources.

Through the courtesy of Mr. Geo. A. Harris of Vancouver, B.C., we have received a mimeographed copy of his recollections of the history of Heward, Mr. Harris, who homesteaded in the area in 1901, is concerned lest the struggles and achievements of the pioneers be forgotten in this present era of mechanized farming. The first farmers in his district hauled their grain 35 miles to Arcola or Weyburn, prior to the building of the C.P.R., extension from Regina to Arcola in 1904. Mr. Harris lists the first settlers, and describes the beginnings of the village and the establishment of various community organizations.

"There were plenty of wild ducks in the fall of 1901", writes Mr. Harris, "and in the fall of 1902 we had plenty of wild geese and wild turkeys. They appeared as soon as there were some cereal crops to feed on and they made a splendid addition to the menu of the early settlers. We also had the red foxes the first years, but soon as it became more settled they left, never to come back, and then the prairie wolf or coyote came in the place of the foxes; the prairie chicken came at the same time as the coyotes . . . In the early days the trails of the buffalo were everywhere, some of them a foot deep; their bleached bones were numerous too and the horns of them were most splendid when scraped and polished and were quite black in color".

The official opening of the Murray Memorial Library, University of Saskatchewan, took place on Friday afternoon, November 30, 1956. The building is named after the first president, Dr. Walter C. Murray, and the ceremonies were under the direction of Dr. W. P. Thompson, President of the University since 1948. The building was declared officially open by the Hon. W. S. Lloyd, Minister of Education and Chairman of the Saskatchewan Archives Board. The architect, Mr. H. K. Black, presented a gold key to Mr. W. B. Francis, Q.C., who accepted it on behalf of the Board of Governors. The handsome portrait of Dr. Murray in its impressive setting in the foyer was unveiled by Dr. F. H. Auld, Chancellor of the University. Also participating in the ceremonies were Professor A. Anstensen, Chairman of the Library Committee, Mr. D. C. Appelt, University Librarian, and Dr. L. H. Thomas, Provincial Archivist. Following a reception, many citizens accepted the invitation to inspect the Library and the quarters occupied by the Saskatchewan Archives Office.

Since *Saskatchewan History* is published under the auspices of the Saskatchewan Archives Board and distributed by the Archives Office in Saskatoon, readers of this magazine may be interested in Dr. Thomas' address which reviewed the development of archival services in this province, including the establishment of the Archives Office on the campus. Dr. Thomas' remarks are as follows:

For the Archives of Saskatchewan, this happy occasion marks the fulfillment of a vision seen nearly forty-six years ago by the first president, Dr. Walter C. Murray, and the first head of the Department of History, Dr. Edmund H. Oliver. On January 19, 1911, President Murray wrote to Premier Scott, reporting that Dr. Oliver had prepared a list of records "relating to the history of the Province . . . which should be preserved in at least one place in the Province, preferably in two." "Would it not be wise," the President wrote, "for the Government to appoint a commission to go into the question of the preservation of historical documents, or rather for the collection of provincial archives? This commission would, of course, be a purely advisory body, and the members would receive no remuneration unless you thought it wise to pay travelling expenses from their residences to the place of meeting. The commission might consist of the Premier and any other member of the Government specially interested in the matter, two of the Members of the Legislature, a professor of History from the University, the President of the University and the Provincial Librarian."

Ladies and gentlemen, this proposal, made so long ago by men who had a wide vision of the needs and opportunities of scholarship in Saskatchewan, has been fulfilled almost to the letter, even to the non-payment of members of the Archives Board, whose remuneration is just one dollar less than that of the proverbial dollar a year men!

Mr. President, I consider it a great honour and privilege to have known, as a student, both Dr. Murray and Dr. Oliver, and an equal honor and privilege to have worked with those other men and women who during the last fifteen years have given of their time and talents to establish suitable archives depositories in Saskatoon and Regina. In the few minutes at my disposal, I cannot do better than pay tribute to those whose patient and persistent efforts have created the archives facilities which you will see on the ground floor of this building.

I vividly recall, as a graduate student laboring on a master's thesis in the late 1930's, the dim, dingy and depressing room in the basement of Saskatchewan Hall which was the first office of the Saskatchewan Archives on this campus. Its darkness was lit only by the flame of scholarship in the soul of its learned and kindly custodian, Dr. Arthur S. Morton. The wise advice of 1911 had not been heeded; no public archives existed in Saskatchewan for many years. Dr. Morton, therefore, labored without adequate facilities and support.

In 1945, thirty-four years after the proposal advanced by Dr. Murray and Dr. Oliver, the Provincial Legislature passed the *Archives Act*, which established the Saskatchewan Archives Board. Of equal importance, a sum of money was voted for the support of archival activity. It is gratifying to know that the two men who were chiefly responsible for this development are with us here this afternoon—the Hon. John H. Sturdy and Dr. George W. Simpson. Mr. Sturdy's influence was decisive in the passage of this first *Archives Act*, which has come to be known throughout Canada as model legislation. Though a busy minister of the crown, Mr. Sturdy served as Chairman of the Archives Board for three years. Dr. Simpson, whose life has been devoted to relating the world of historical

scholarship to the Saskatchewan scene, served as Provincial Archivist during the same formative period. He is still a member of the Archives Board.

We are also indebted to Dr. Jean Murray and Professor Van Vliet who have served on the Board, and whose interest in its activities continues unabated. The Hon. Woodrow S. Lloyd, who succeeded Mr. Sturdy as Chairman, and Dr. George Britnell, have both been members of the Archives Board since its inception. The time and attention which they have devoted to its affairs have been a large factor in the success of our archives program in Saskatchewan.

Finally, it is appropriate at this time to record and publicly acknowledge the contribution to the cause of scholarship made by two individuals who are perhaps not as well known to this audience as those whom I have already mentioned. I refer to the Legislative Librarians—Mrs. Austin Bothwell, and her successor, Mr. John Archer, who is present here today. The Legislative Librarian is an *ex officio* member of the Archives Board, and is associated with the Provincial Archivist in the administration of the policies established by the Board. The co-operation of Mrs. Bothwell and Mr. Archer has been indispensable in assembling the research materials which you will find in the Archives Office in this building. The province has been fortunate in having two such public servants, whose constructive vision has extended beyond the walls of their own institution.

The best thing that can be said of this University is that, over the years, through its students, faculty, and friends, it has had a direct or indirect part in every vital movement and activity in the life of Saskatchewan. The Archives Office on this campus is a link with those movements and activities, a tangible evidence of the interest of the scholar in the Saskatchewan environment. The resources of the Library display the wisdom of earlier civilizations and the achievements of parent cultures. It is fitting that in association with it are the resources of the Saskatchewan Archives—records which display the struggles and aspirations of the new society which is emerging on these plains.

Contributors

ALLAN R. TURNER, Regina, is a member of the staff of the Archives of Saskatchewan.

NORMAN WARD is professor of political science at the University of Saskatchewan and the author of *The Canadian House of Commons*.

JOHN H. ARCHER is Legislative Librarian of Saskatchewan.

F. H. AULD is Chancellor of the University of Saskatchewan, and a former deputy minister of the Saskatchewan Department of Agriculture.

KITTY WOOD is a member of the staff of the Legislative Library, Regina.



Just Published

DIRECTORY OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT and FEDERAL ELECTIONS FOR THE NORTH-WEST TERRITORIES AND SASKATCHEWAN 1887-1953

*Prepared by members of the staff of the Archives of Saskatchewan and
published under the auspices of the Saskatchewan Archives Board.*

This unique publication provides a convenient and authoritative historical record of the names of persons who have been connected with public affairs in Saskatchewan (and in the North-West Territories prior to 1905) as members of the Senate and House of Commons of Canada and as candidates in successive Dominion general elections. The period covered is from 1887, when the Territories first elected members to the House of Commons, up to and including the general election of 1953.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Members of the Senate for the North-West Territories and Saskatchewan.
- Membership of the House of Commons for the North-West Territories and Saskatchewan.
- Alphabetical List of Members of the House of Commons for the North-West Territories and Saskatchewan.
- Election Results by Electoral District, North-West Territories and Saskatchewan.
- Votes Polled by Political Parties, North-West Territories and Saskatchewan.
- Maps of Electoral Districts, North-West Territories and Saskatchewan.

Price: \$1.00 per copy.
(Sask. residents add 3c Ed. and Hosp. tax)

Send Orders to:

SASKATCHEWAN ARCHIVES OFFICE
UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN
SASKATOON, SASK.

